



KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKS PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2020 AT 09H00 – 11H00

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS : Hon. Frazer, MC (Chairperson)
Hon. Cele, ZLI
Hon. Duma, SA
Hon. Mazibuko, MJ
Hon. Meyer, LM
Hon. Mpayipheli, N
Hon. Mshengu, SW
Hon. Nxumalo, JS
Hon. Thakur-Rajbansi, S
Hon. Zuma, BM

APOLOGIES : Hon. Mthethwa, TP

DEPARTMENTAL EXECUTIVE AND OFFICIALS

MEC: Hon. NP Nkonyeni
PLO: Nondabula, M

DEPARTMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

Hadebe, L (NEHAWU)
Madi, D (GVK Siyazama - Contractor & Consultants)
Mthimkhulu, V (Dept. of Labour)
Ndlovu, S (PSA)

KZN LEGISLATURE OFFICIALS: Phakathi, T (Recording Coordinator)

Brown, L

Hlongwa, W

Nkosi, SN

Nsele, S

Nxumalo, S

Pillay, P

Ramnandan, R

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairperson, Honourable MC Frazer, officially opened the meeting. She welcomed members of the portfolio committee and the MEC, Hon. NP Nkonyeni. Furthermore, she welcomed the Stakeholders of the Department of Public Works who were invited to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. All members of the Committee were present at the start of the meeting.

3. CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was properly constituted at the start.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with amendments, item 5, Remarks by the Chairperson was changed to the Remarks by the MEC. Honourable S.Thakur-Rajbansi moved for the adoption of the agenda, Honourable N. Mpayipheli seconded.

Comments by the Chairperson

The Chairperson's remarks were based mainly on the previous meeting whereby the Committee had to cancel the scheduled meeting; due to non-submission of Covid-19 pandemic report by the Department of Public Works. Hence, she invited the MEC, Hon. NP Nkonyeni to the meeting so that the issue could be discussed and resolved amicably.

Also, the Chairperson made an appeal to the members of the portfolio committee not to communicate inaccurate and unsubstantial information about the portfolio committee because it is derogatory to the Legislature as an Institution, the Committee and the Committee members as well. She emphasized that the cancelled Committee briefing which was scheduled to take place on 28 April 2020 was purely for the Committee briefing

on Covid-19 pandemic by the Support Staff, the Department was neither invited nor expected to participate on that meeting as per Focused Oversight Guidelines on Covid-19 pandemic. The only issue that was raised at that meeting about the Department was pertaining to the documents that were not submitted by the Department for discussion.

In his response, Honourable Meyer said he probably misunderstood the purpose of the previous briefing however, stood by his statement. The Committee resolved that Honourable Meyer write another statement to retract his initial statement since he has confirmed that he wrote a statement that was regarded as defamatory to the Committee and the Department of Public Works particularly the Executive. Hon. ZLI Cele moved for the adoption of the resolution, Hon. BM Zuma seconded.

Committee resolved that: PW02/04/2020

- Honourable LM Meyer to write a letter retracting his unsubstantial statement about the Committee meeting that was scheduled for 28 April 2020.

It was crucial for the Department to submit the report since it was the reason for the scheduled meeting moreover, it was the issue of compliance since all Committees at the Legislature were allocated slots to comply to the Focused Oversight Guidelines on Covid-19 pandemic. The Chairperson mentioned that the Department submitted the anticipated report after the meeting adjourned on 28 April 2020.

She reported to the committee that the letter of disappointment was written to the Department as per the resolution of the previous meeting. The Chairperson read the letter of apology to the Committee that she received from the MEC shortly after the meeting was cancelled on 28 April 2020. On the letter, the MEC apologized for the cancellation of the Committee meeting; due to the failure of the Department to submit the report to the Committee. The Chairperson confirmed that she accepted the apology from the MEC, Hon. NP Nkonyeni on behalf of the Committee. The Chairperson handed over to the MEC for her remarks.

5. REMARKS BY THE MEC

The MEC, Honourable NP Nkonyeni appreciated the opportunity to be welcomed at the Committee meeting. She profusely apologized to the Committee for the incident that led to the cancellation of the Committee meeting, and committed that as the Department they would ensure that all reports and documents as required by the Committee are submitted on time. She further stated that the previous incident would not happen again.

The Committee accepted apology from the MEC and officially released her from the meeting to attend to other provincial government activities.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS: FOCUSED OVERSIGHT GUIDELINES ON COVID-19

The Legislature Support Staff to Public Works Portfolio Committee; briefed the Committee based on the information that was received from the Department which was analyzed as prescribed by the Focused Oversight Guidelines on Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst the Researcher, Ms L. Brown and the Budget and Content Advisor, Mr P. Naidoo briefed the Committee according to the briefing notes that had been circulated to the members of the Committee prior to the meeting however; the Committee also contributed with various questions to the Departmental Plan on Covid-19 pandemic.

7. DISCUSSION

Members of the Committee deliberated on the reports, all Stakeholders were also provided opportunity to make input which will form package with the rest of the questions. The Committee welcomed and appreciated the briefing by Ms Brown and Mr Naidoo and acknowledged the effort by the Committee Support Staff in ensuring that Public Works Committee comply.

The Chairperson welcomed the commitment by the Department of Labour to provide the Committee with the report based on the inspection of sites. The Chairperson advised the Committee that after the Support Staff have compiled all the questions that were raised by the members of the Committee at the meeting, together with the information on the briefing document, they will forward to the Chairperson for Quality Assurance before they are referred to the Department.

8. RESOLUTION

Committee resolved that: PW03/04/2020

- The Department of Public Works should submit reports and documents to the Committee prior to the scheduled meeting.

9. CLOSURE

The Chairperson concluded that the Committee Support Staff will consolidate and refer all questions to the Chairperson for Quality Assurance after which will be forwarded to the Department. The Chairperson announced that the next Committee meeting is on Thursday 7 May 2020 at 11H00. There being no further discussion, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 11H00.

.....
CHAIRPERSON:

HON. MC FRAZER

.....
DATE